

do they adhere to any international agreement. They fight outside the box; whereas, our sense of what is right and wrong constrains us to adhere to recognized rules of engagement.

We all know the self-professed leader of al-Qaida is Osama bin Laden. His call to arms for his disciples is: Death is better than living on this Earth with the unbelievers amongst us.

We know Iraq is central to the war on terror because Osama bin Laden said it is. He said:

The most serious issue today for the whole world is this third world war that is raging in Iraq.

Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's deputy, described Iraq as "the place for the greatest battle of Islam in this era."

Remember the blind sheikh? He was responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. From his prison cell, he has called on Muslims everywhere to "tear them apart, ruin their economy, instigate against their corporations, destroy their embassies, attack their interests, sink their ships, and shoot down their airplanes; kill them on land, at sea, in the air; kill them wherever you find them."

Those were their words, Mr. President. We are at war with an enemy that wants to see America wiped off the map. This is an enemy bent on destruction and Islamic domination—or at least their vision of Islam. Their goal is to establish a violent political utopia across the Middle East—which they call a caliphate—where all would be ruled according to their hateful ideology.

Osama bin Laden has called the 9/11 attacks, in his words, "a great step toward the unity of Muslims and establishing the righteous caliphate." There are reports that some of Osama bin Laden's supporters believe that he is the Mahdi, the 12th Imam. The Mahdi will lead believers in Islam to victory over the infidels, ushering in an era of peace and justice.

Even Iran's President is on record as instructing America, in his words:

If you would like to have good relations with the Iranian nation in the future, bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender. If you don't accept to do this, the Iranian nation will force you to surrender and bow down.

Those are the Iranian President's own words. It is not farfetched to believe that with nuclear weapons in his possession, he would use them to usher in this cataclysmic confrontation that he seeks. We must take these threats seriously and act accordingly.

Remember, the terrorists are traitors to their own faith trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself. The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them.

The terrorists' directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinction among military leaders, ordi-

nary troops, and civilians, including women and children. They want to overthrow existing governments in many Muslim countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. They want to drive Israel out of the Middle East. They want to drive Christians and Jews out of vast regions of Asia and Africa. These terrorists kill not merely to end lives but to disrupt and end a way of life. With every atrocity, they hope that America grows fearful, retreating from the world and forsaking our friends. They stand against us because we stand in their way.

We cannot be deceived by their pretenses to piety. We have seen their kind before. They are the heirs of all the murderous ideologies of the 20th century.

By sacrificing human life to serve their radical visions, by abandoning every value except power, they follow the path of fascism and Nazism and totalitarianism. They will follow that path all the way to where it ends: In history's unmarked graves of discarded lies.

This is not, however, just America's fight. And what is at stake is not just America's freedom. This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight. This is the fight for all who believe in progress and pluralism, tolerance, and freedom.

The war we fight today is more than a military conflict; it is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century. Make no mistake: this is an enemy we cannot appease; this is an enemy we must defeat.

On September 11, 2001, and the days immediately following, this country stood united. We stood ready to protect all Americans. We must continue to show a united front against this enemy. We must understand that what we say has great consequences. If our enemy sees the country divided, it will also see an opportunity and a path to victory.

During our Civil War, General Lee often read northern papers to gauge the mood of the population in the North. As he saw the political discourse and the division among northern leaders prior to Gettysburg, he believed that it would take only one more victory to win the war. Lucky for us, the victory never came, but we can learn from Lee's lesson.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 more seconds.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, al-Qaida reads our newspapers and watches our television stations. They see the lack of resolve in some of our leaders and they seek to exploit it. This is the time to lead, a time to unite, and a time to defeat an enemy that wants to bring an end to freedom around the world. We must lay down our party labels as Republicans, Democrats, or Independents and become Americans. We must not tire. We must not falter. We cannot fail.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

#### OSAMA BIN LADEN STILL LOOSE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I came to the floor to speak briefly about one of our outstanding superintendents in Louisiana and to pay tribute to an accomplishment that has been made on education. But in light of the rantings that went on for the last 30 minutes in the Chamber from my two colleagues on the other side, I would like to state for the RECORD that America is not tired of fighting terrorism. America is tired of the wrong-headed and bone-headed leadership of the Republican Party that has sent \$6.5 billion a month to Iraq, when the front line was Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. America is tired of leadership which led this country to attack Saddam Hussein when we were attacked by Osama bin Laden, and which captured a man who did not attack the country and left loose a man who did.

Americans are tired of bone-headed Republican leadership that alienates our allies when we need them the most. And Americans are most certainly tired of leadership that, despite documented mistake after mistake after mistake— and even their own party admitting mistakes—never admits that they do anything wrong. That is the kind of leadership Americans are tired of.

I didn't come to the Senate to have partisan rantings on the floor, but I most certainly am not going to sit here as a Democrat and let the Republican leadership come to the floor and talk about how Democrats are not making us safe. They are the ones who are in charge, and Osama bin Laden is still loose.

#### RECOGNIZING LOUISIANA'S MADISON PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, now I will speak about what I came to the floor to speak about. We have had a very difficult time in Louisiana and Mississippi and the gulf coast this year, in part because our resources are short because our country is involved in so many other things, and I can appreciate and understand the dilemmas. But we still have a great effort underway to rebuild Louisiana, Mississippi, and the gulf coast. So we have been moving steadily ahead in fits and starts because, of course, this was an unprecedented disaster. And while it really wasn't a natural disaster for Louisiana, it was a manmade disaster because our city went under water and the region, counties in Mississippi and parishes in Louisiana—for instance, one of our parishes, not New Orleans which we have heard a lot about, but St. Bernard Parish which sits right outside of New Orleans, 75,000 people live there, and every home was destroyed and every church was ruined